



About Transforming Safety

The Colorado legislature created the Transforming Safety program in 2017. It made reforms in the State’s parole system that will save the state money. The State will invest these savings in strategies that improve public safety.

The program will operate in North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs. Both communities will receive \$1.29 million each year in grant funds for three years. They will also receive \$500,000 each year for lending to small businesses.

You can find more information on Transforming Safety at www.transformingsafety.org. These guidelines apply to the grant fund. If you would like to learn about the lending program, please visit <https://transformingsafety.org/loans/>.

Grants Program Areas

The Transforming Safety legislation created four broad areas for the grants program. These were based on research about how to make communities safer.

- 1 Academic Achievement
- 2 Community-Based Direct Services
- 3 Neighborhood Connections
- 4 Increasing the Safety and Usability of Common Outdoor Spaces

Local Planning Teams

The legislation also created local planning teams in both communities. The teams had two tasks:

- Defining the neighborhood boundaries for the grant program
- Creating specific grant priorities based on the four grant program areas

These teams met many times in early 2018. Team members looked at data and conducted research. They brought their knowledge and experience as community members.

The teams chose geographic boundaries for the two communities.

Geographic Boundaries for North Aurora

- Northern Boundary: Aurora City line
- Eastern Boundary: Interstate 225
- Southern Boundary: 6th Ave.
- Western Boundary: Aurora City line

Your group must work in this area to apply for a Transforming Safety grant. Your group may be located outside the area and/or work in many areas. But Transforming Safety can only fund your work within this area.

The teams created specific grant priorities in the four areas. Only groups that advance these priorities can apply for grants.

Grant Priorities for North Aurora

- 1. Support adults and youth who are or have been involved in the criminal justice system in order to reduce recidivism or incidence of reoffending.**
- 2. Help youth (up to age 25) develop the skills and resilience to avoid, reduce, or stop high risk behaviors that can lead to involvement with the criminal justice system.**
- 3. Reduce/prevent crime affecting the most vulnerable people in the North Aurora community, with a particular focus on people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, victims of sexual assault, and victims of sex trafficking.**
- 4. Increase academic achievement by reducing rates of school suspension, expulsion, and referrals to law enforcement, with a particular emphasis on students of color.**

Your group must do work on one or more of these priorities to apply for a Transforming Safety grant. Your group may work on other activities as well. But Transforming Safety can only fund your work on these priorities.

The Role of The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community foundation. You can learn more about The Denver Foundation at denverfoundation.org.

All grant applications will come to The Denver Foundation. The Denver Foundation will review all of the applications. Teams of local community members will recommend which grants to fund. The State will make final grant decisions.

Please note: Groups applying for a grant will not be able to review grant proposals or recommend grants.

Which Groups Will Be Funded?

The Transforming Safety grants program will be very competitive. Not all groups that advance the program's priorities will be funded. The program will fund established groups that can show strong past outcomes. It will also fund new groups with new ideas. A group's connection to its community will be very important. So will being able to show results quickly.

Evaluation

All successful grantees will receive help evaluating their work. Coaching will also be available to help grantees to track and report on their outcomes. Groups that show the best progress may be able to get funding in future years.

**To learn more about Transforming Safety,
please visit www.transformingsafety.org.**

Grantees will be required to work closely with the program's evaluator both individually and as part of a group of grantees.

Transforming Safety seeks to show how investing in communities instead of the prison system can accomplish two goals: (1) Preventing crime; and (2) Reducing recidivism, or the chance that people who have already been involved in the criminal justice system will get involved again. Evaluation of grantees will focus on how they are accomplishing these two goals.

When you apply for a Transforming Safety grant, you should explain as clearly as possible how you will accomplish these goals. You should do this by describing how you will advance one or more of the grant priorities listed above. After you have chosen the priority you will advance, consider answering the following questions in the priority section of the application.

- Who specifically will you serve? Describe those who will participate in your program in detail. Include age, race, socioeconomic background, incarceration status, if they are a member of a vulnerable group or a group that faces discrimination, etc.
- What specifically will you do? Describe the supports you intend to provide, and how those supports will advance the priority you are writing about. If you are going to reduce recidivism, explain in detail how your program will accomplish that. If you are going to help youth develop the skills to avoid, reduce, or stop high risk behaviors, describe what specific skills you will help them develop and what specific high risk behaviors this will help them avoid, reduce, or stop.
- How will you measure your impact? Include specific estimates of the number of people you will help, what successful help will look like, and how you will determine if you have been successful.
- Do you have any research or data to measure your program against? If others have done this type of work before, can you provide data or statistics to show how this work has been successful?

Questions on Community Engagement and Inclusiveness and Racial Equity

All applicants must answer questions on how their group is engaging directly affected community members, how they are advancing racial equity, and challenges they are experiencing in both of these areas. The section below provides some background and further information to help you answer these questions.

Engaging Directly Affected Community Members: Directly affected community members are the people living in the community where your program operates. They are especially those who receive services from your program, or have a similar situation to those who receive services from your program. The Denver Foundation believes that by engaging directly affected community members in organizational leadership, program development, and learning and evaluation, organizations will be more effective. In answering the questions in the application on community engagement, please tell us how your organization solicits the input of community members on the best way to help them, and how you include them as board members, staff, volunteers, and donors.

Advancing Racial Equity: Racial equity refers to the place we will be at as a society when advantage or disadvantage can no longer be predicted by race. In order to achieve racial equity, organizations need to be diverse, that is, to welcome people of color as board members, staff, and volunteers. They also need to be inclusive, that is, to include people of color fully in decision-making in their organizations. In answering the questions in the application on advancing racial equity, please tell us how your organization seeks to advance diversity and inclusion within your organization, and how your organization seeks to advance racial equity in the wider community.

Grant Application Details

Who can apply?

- Nonprofit groups, including churches (must be in good standing with the IRS and State of Colorado)
- Schools (public, private, and charter)
- Local governments

What are the important grant application dates?

- The Application deadline is September 4, 2018. Grant decisions will be made by the end of October 2018.
- Applications must be received by 5 pm on the due date.
- Successful applicants can only receive one grant in a 12-month period.

How can groups apply?

- Groups are strongly encouraged to apply through The Denver Foundation's online grant application system.
- You will need to register online to submit an application. Registration takes approximately 24 hours. Please register as soon as you think you might apply.
- Information about the online application process is available at: <http://www.denverfoundation.org/Nonprofits/Apply-for-a-Grant/Online-Grant-Application-Overview>
- If you are unable to use the online system, please call 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to a grants manager. We will work to accommodate your group.
- The grant application requires several attachments. These must be in pdf format. The application includes instructions on how to save documents in this format.

Are there any restrictions on what Transforming Safety grant funds can be used for?

Transforming Safety grants do not fund groups or programs that discriminate in hiring, service provision, or volunteer recruitment on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, except to serve a historically disadvantaged group. When you apply, you will be asked to submit a nondiscrimination statement adopted by your board. It must include all of these categories.

Transforming Safety grants cannot be used for the following:

- Capital campaigns
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Membership campaigns
- Special events, sponsorships
- Retroactive funding (projects that will be completed before funding becomes available)
- Debt retirement
- Grants to individuals
- Multi-year funding requests
- Conferences, symposia, and related travel
- Grants that further political doctrine or religious activities. Transforming Safety grants can be made to religious organizations. Funds cannot be used to proselytize, evangelize, or otherwise attempt to spread a particular religious belief. This includes requiring program participants to participate in religious services or activities.

**If you have questions about the Transforming Safety application,
please call The Denver Foundation at 303-996-7356.**